



Preventing Exposure to Asbestos Information Flyer

What is asbestos?

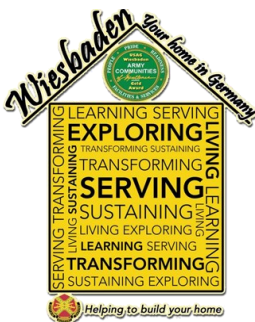
Asbestos is a commercial term referring to a class of minerals that form long, thin, and very strong fibers that naturally occur in rock. Because of its sturdy properties, asbestos was mined and used in making many products, including insulation, fireproofing and acoustic materials, wallboard, plaster, cement, floor tiles, brake linings, and roofing shingles. Unfortunately, disturbing asbestos-containing materials (ACM) can release microscopic asbestos fibers to the air that, if inhaled, can cause severe lung diseases. Many uses of asbestos were banned after discovering the risks, but asbestos is still present in old materials and used in products such as automobile brakes and roofing materials.

How can I be exposed to asbestos?

The presence of intact ACM in your home or at work is not a hazard. However, people may get exposed to ACM fibers disturbing or damaging items due to demolition work, building or home maintenance, repair, or automotive work.

How can asbestos affect my health?

Exposure to airborne asbestos fibers increases your risk of developing severe lung diseases such as lung cancer, which often take many years to develop following exposure. Smoking increases that risk. In general, the greater the exposure to asbestos, the greater the chance of developing harmful health effects.



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How can I prevent exposure to asbestos at home?

ACM is rare in Army Family Housing. However, it may be present underneath floor tiles, in window sills, and ventilation systems. Therefore, residents should refrain from conducting renovation work at home.

How can I prevent exposure to asbestos at my workspace?

If you work at construction sites, follow established standard operating procedures and your Job Hazard Analysis to prevent asbestos exposure. If you plan on doing small renovation work at your work place such as removing carpets or replacing floor coverings, please consult with the DPW Environmental Division first. If you are working on vehicles and removing potentially asbestos-containing brake pads or clutches, be sure to follow the wet method removal to prevent dust. Please contact the DPW Environmental Division if you are unsure of this method.

What is the Army doing to keep me safe from asbestos?

Your DPW Environmental Division has an asbestos management program that includes conducting comprehensive building surveys, testing and analyzing materials for ACM, maintaining a database of all results, and training. Whenever Work Orders are submitted, Environmental Reviews are conducted to identify and prevent releases of asbestos.

Where can I obtain information about asbestos in my building?

Your DPW Environmental Division maintains the asbestos database and is pleased to share asbestos information and testing results of your building.

For more information regarding the asbestos management program, please contact the DPW Environmental Division POC on the flip side of this flyer. For additional general information about asbestos, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/asbestos>, or scan the QR codes below.



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